

Serial No. 09/931,685
October 30, 2003
Reply to the Office Action dated July 30, 2003
Page 2 of 9

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A center-electrode assembly comprising:
a ferrite;
center-electrode patterns and insulating films deposited on the top surface of the ferrite;
a conductive pattern formed on the bottom surface of the ferrite; and
connecting electrodes directly formed on margins-sides of the ferrite; wherein the connecting electrodes electrically connect the center-electrode patterns and the conductive pattern; and
said connecting electrodes are comprised of at least one of a plated conductive material, a printed conductive material, a sputtered conductive material, a vapor deposited conductive material and an applied paste conductive material formed directly on the margins-sides of the ferrite.

Claim 2 (original): A nonreciprocal circuit device comprising:
a permanent magnet;
a center-electrode assembly according to Claim 1 to which a direct-current magnetic field is applied by the permanent magnet; and
a metallic case accommodating the permanent magnet and the center-electrode assembly.

Claim 3 (original): A communication apparatus comprising a nonreciprocal circuit device according to Claim 2, and connected thereto, at least one of a transmitting circuit

Serial No. 09/931,685
October 30, 2003
Reply to the Office Action dated July 30, 2003
Page 3 of 9

and a reception circuit.

Claim 4 (original): A communication apparatus comprising a center-electrode assembly according to Claim 1, and connected thereto, at least one of a transmission circuit and a reception circuit.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A method for manufacturing a center-electrode assembly comprising the steps of:

forming through-holes in a ferrite mother board;

alternately depositing a center-electrode pattern and an insulating film on the top surface of the ferrite mother board, and forming a conductive pattern on the back surface of the ferrite mother board;

cutting a center-electrode assembly from the ferrite mother board by cutting the ferrite mother board at intervals of a predetermined size; and

forming connecting electrodes in the through-holes in the center electrode assembly by at least one of a plating method, a printing method, a sputtering method, a vapor deposition method and a conductive paste applying method to electrically connect the center-electrode patterns formed on the top surface and the conductive pattern formed on the back surface.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A center-electrode assembly according to claim 1, wherein the connecting electrodes are formed on grooves formed in the ~~margins~~sides of the ferrite.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A center-electrode assembly according to claim 1, further comprising:

ports directly formed on the ~~margins~~sides of the ferrite; wherein

Serial No. 09/931,685
October 30, 2003
Reply to the Office Action dated July 30, 2003
Page 4 of 9

the ports are electrically connected with the connecting electrodes via the center-electrode patterns.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A center-electrode assembly according to claim 7, further comprising:

gaps formed on the bottom surface of the ferrite; wherein
the gaps are provided between ends of the ports and an end of the conductive pattern.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): A center-electrode assembly according to claim 1, further comprising:

ports directly formed on the upper surface of the ferrite; wherein
the ports are electrically connected with the connecting electrodes via the center-electrode patterns.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A center-electrode assembly comprising:
a ferrite;
center-electrode patterns and insulating films laminated on the top surface of the ferrite;

a conductive pattern formed on the bottom surface of the ferrite, and
connecting electrodes formed ~~in external peripheral portions~~ on the sides of the ferrite; wherein

the connecting electrodes electrically connect the center-electrode patterns and the conductive pattern; and

said connecting electrodes are comprised of at least one of a plated conductive material, a printed conductive material, a sputtered conductive material, a vapor deposited conductive material and an applied paste conductive material formed directly on the ~~margins~~ sides of the ferrite.